

Khrushchev Resigns

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as Soviet Leader; Brezhnev, Kosygin Take Over Posts; Son-in-Law Adzhubei Reported Fired

Early Soviet Policy Shift Not Expected

By Stewart Hensley
United Press International

U.S. authorities said yesterday that replacement of Nikita Khrushchev as Soviet Premier and Communist Party boss did not appear to foreshadow any early change

in Soviet policy.

They warned, however, that it could have long-range repercussions because of the vast disarray in the world Communist camp.

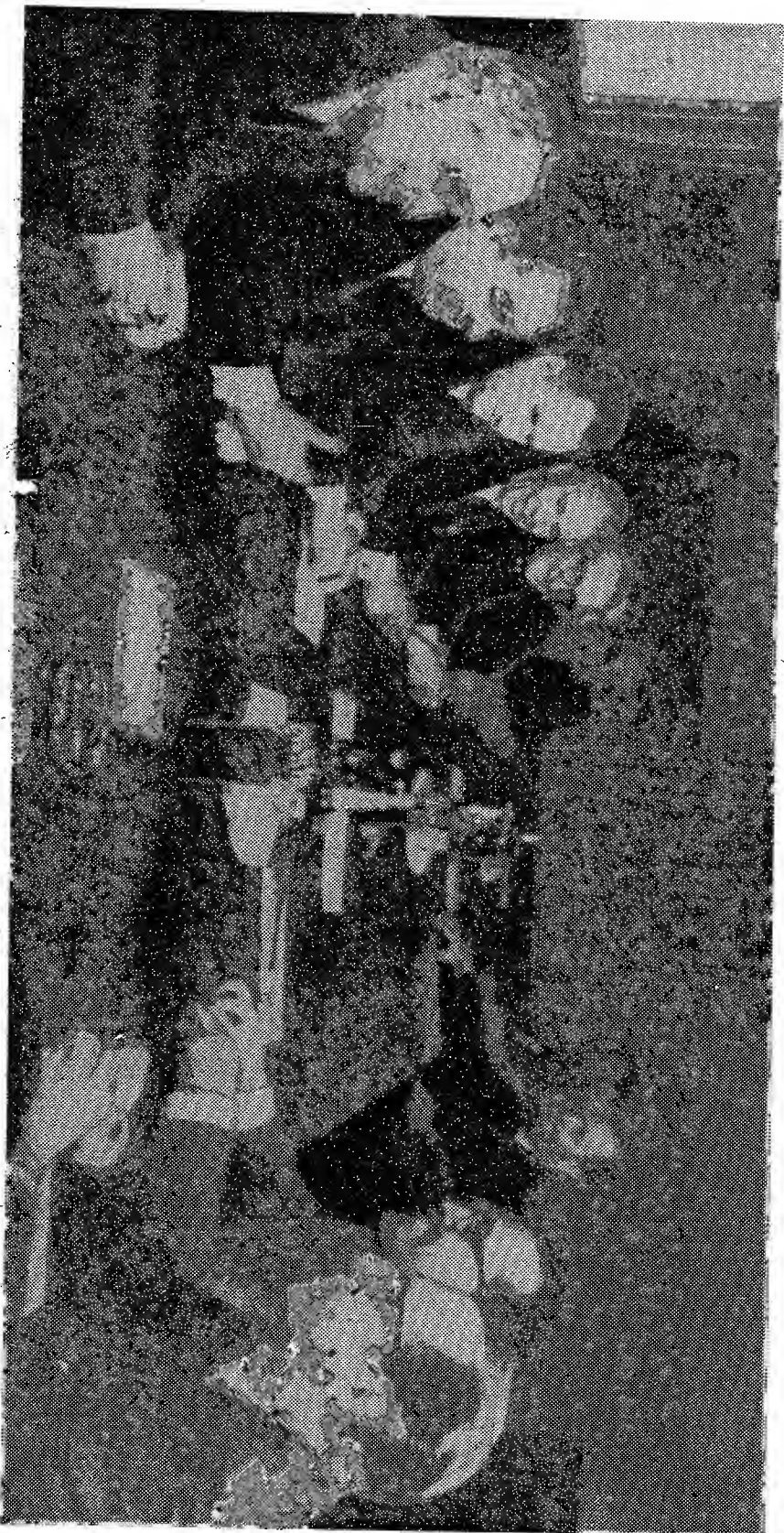
It was pointed out that Khrushchev bequeathed his successors a titanic struggle with Red China on the eve of its entry into the nuclear age, a multitude of economic problems within Russia and the growing restlessness in the hitherto solid East Eu-

ropean Communist bloc.

These explosive issues made it extremely dangerous to predict, officials said, just what line the Kremlin eventually would have to adopt to try to meet its mounting problems.

The assumption that there would be no immediate major shifts in Soviet policies was based on the fact that Khrushchev's two powerful posts went to men he is believed to have handpicked

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Nikita Khrushchev is conspicuously absent in this photo of Soviet and Communist Party leaders made yesterday in Moscow. The occasion

was a meeting with Cuban President Osvaldo Dorticos, at right, and Cuban Ambassador O. Sanchez, seated next to him. The Russian lead-

ers in the foreground at left are President Anastas Mikoyan, Leonid Brezhnev, new Party chief, and Alexei Kosygin, new Premier.

Associated Press

No Early Shift in Soviet Policy Expected in Leadership Change

some time ago as his successors.

The designation of Leonid I. Brezhnev as first secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the more powerful of the two posts, was anticipated by many U.S. officials should Khrushchev quit or be forced out.

The selection of Alexei Kosygin, for elevation from first deputy premier to premier, also put a Khrushchev-line man in that post.

However, some officials warned that this could be a transitional step with more changes in the future if these two heirs of the top Red exponent of "peaceful coexistence" proved unable to cope with the situation."

2 Interpretations

Some officials were inclined to believe that Khrushchev might have initiated the change, since he had spoken in the past of his advancing age. In a Moscow speech April 26, 1963, Khrushchev told the people, "I am already 69 . . . Everyone understands that I cannot hold for all time the position I now have in the Party and in the state."

However, others felt that the initiative undoubtedly had been taken by the High Presidium because of the increasing difficulties facing Russia.

The announcement that Khrushchev suddenly asked to be relieved of his duties "in view of his advanced age and the deterioration of his health" could be interpreted either way.

Khrushchev's "request" might have come in the face of indication that the Presidium members themselves felt he was not up to his tasks any longer.

There was no immediate official reaction from the State Department or White

House. Officials were reluctant to make any snap judgments.

But government experts have said for some time they felt that health would be the reason given when Khrushchev eventually stepped out. They had not had any recent indication, however, that he was more fatigued than previously.

List of Problems

The last Western official to see him, the French Minister of Finance, reported after his call on Khrushchev two days ago that he was looking well and in good spirits after a vacation in the south.

In any event, U.S. officials pointed out that the list of problems facing Khrushchev's successors was formidable and could force eventual changes in policy.

They listed:

- The Sino-Soviet conflict which has spread into a world-wide struggle for control of the international Communist movement.

- The lack of enthusiasm in the Communist world for Khrushchev's proposed Dec. 15 meeting of representatives of Communist parties from 26 countries to consider a full-fledged Red summit in 1965, presumably to read Red China out of the Party. So far only 12 of the 25 Communist countries invited formally have accepted. Six have made it clear they will not attend. Some others are uncertain.

- The reluctance, and in some cases outright refusal, of previously loyal East European Communist leaders to back Khrushchev's efforts to force Red China out of the international movement. Poland has made it clear it would not support such a move and there is considerable doubt that Rumania and one or two others would.

- Rumania's April declaration of economic independence from Moscow, with a specific refusal to participate in a Soviet-sponsored plan for cooperative development of the lower Danube from which Bulgaria and the Soviet Union would gain at the expense of Rumania.

- The death of Italy's astute and able Communist leader, Palmiro Togliatti, with its resultant effect on the Party's position and strength in that country.

- The continuing problem within Russia of allocation of resources between consumer goods and heavy industry and armaments. Khrushchev has been forced to reverse his position in this area several times. There is the additional problem, now spoken of openly, of finding some way to inject "incentives" into the Russian economic system to spur workers to greater production and efficiency.

Much Uncertainty

There is bound to be considerable uncertainty in Washington regarding the future course of Soviet policy until officials have a chance to learn more about the exact circumstances of Khrushchev's abdication and the possible implications.

Some authorities, although a minority, even speculate that the move may be the beginning of a gradual swing back toward a much harder line in relations with the West.

One early result of the change may be to complicate discussions Secretary of State Dean Rusk plans to have in New York next month with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko when both will be there for the early days of the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly.